

KS3 Recommended Reading List: just to get you started!

This essential reading list for KS3 has been created with the help of students in Years 7, 8 and 9. These are the books that kept them awake at night, and encouraged them to keep reading. Find more suggestions in our Brilliant Books for KS4

C = challenging read

* = might include some older teen issues and/or themes

BG = used as a read for Year 7 Book Group 2023-2024

Where a series is indicated, the named book is the title of book #1.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mystery/Thriller</i></p> <p>'Strange Star' Emma Carroll 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' Holly Jackson * 'All These Beautiful Strangers' Elizabeth Klehfoth 'We Were Liars' E Lockhart C * 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' Mark Haddon *C 'Turtles All the Way Down' John Green 'I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have To Kill You' (series) Ally Carter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action/Adventure</p> <p>'The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne' Jonathan Stroud 'Orphan Monster Spy' Matt Kileen * 'The Silver Brumby Stories' Elyne Mitchell 'Northern Lights' (series) Philip Pullman C 'The Recruit (series)' Robert Muchamore* 'Contagion' Teri Terry 'The Hit' Allen Zadoff 'Agent 21' Chris Ryan 'Tiger Wars' Steve Backshall 'Noughts and Crosses' Malorie Blackman *</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Comedy</i></p> <p>'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 ³/₄' Sue Townsend' * 'Noggin' John Corey Whaley* 'Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good' Louie Stowell 'The Princess Diaries' Meg Cabot 'The Radleys' Matt Haig* 'Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging' Louise Rennison (series) * 'Holes' Louis Sachar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fantasy</p> <p>'Eragon' (series) Christopher Paolini C 'Ingo' (series) Helen Dunmore 'The Hobbit' and 'Lord of the Rings' (series) J R R Tolkien* 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' Kiran Millwood Hargrave 'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase' Joan Aiken 'Skinful of Shadows' Frances Harding 'The Phantom Tollbooth' Norton Juster 'Throne of Glass' (series) Sarah J Maas *C 'Vampire Academy' (series) Richelle Mead * 'Twilight' (series) Stephenie Meyer * 'Trial By Fire' (series) Josephine Angelini* 'The Cruel Prince' Holly Bourne 'The School of Good and Evil' (series) Soman Chainani</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Romance</i></p> <p>'The Fault in Our Stars' John Green C* 'Am I Normal Yet?' (series) Holly Bourne 'Everything Everything' Nicola Yoon 'Soulmates' Holly Bourne* 'Struck' (series) Joss Stirling 'The Truth About Forever' Sarah Dessen 'Falling Fast' Sophie McKenzie 'Love Song' Sophia Bennett 'Heartstopper' Alice Oseman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Crime</p> <p>'Theodore Boone' (series) John Grisham 'Murder Most Unladylike' (series) Robin Stevens 'One of Us is Lying' (series) Karen McManus * 'Looking for JJ' Anne Cassidy * 'The Edge of Nowhere' (series) Elizabeth George 'Trash' Andy Mulligan 'Wolf Hollow' Lauren Wolk 'Girl, Missing' (series) Sophie McKenzie 'The Goldfish Boy' Lisa Thompson 'Skulduggery Pleasant' (series) Derek Landy</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sci-fi</p> <p>'Ender's Game' Orson Scott Card C Warhammer series C</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Historical</p> <p>'Hetty Feather' Jaqueline Wilson 'War Horse' Michael Morpurgo</p>

<p>'Trilogy of Time' Samantha Dickens 'The Extinction Trials' S M Wilson * 'The Hitch Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy'(series) Douglas Adams 'The Knife of Never Letting Go' (series) Patrick Ness*C 'Drone Racer' Andy Briggs (BG)</p>	<p>'Private Peaceful' Michael Morpurgo 'Adolphus Tips' Michael Morpurgo 'Rooftoppers' Katherine Rundell 'Frost Hollow Hall' Emma Carroll 'The Book Thief' Markus Zusak C* 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas' John Boyne 'Salt to the Sea' Ruta Sepetys 'Things a Bright Girl Can Do' Sally Nicholls * 'I Must Betray You' Ruta Sepetys 'The Mighty Miss Malone' Chris Paul Curtis (BG) 'White Bird: The Graphic Novel' by R.J.Palacio (BG)</p>
<p>TEENAGE ISSUES (GROWING UP)</p> <p>'Wonder' R J Palacio 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' Onjali Q Rauf 'Geek Girl' Holly Smale 'One' Sarah Crossan * 'Poet X' Elizabeth Acevedo * 'Sophie's World' Jostein Gaarder C 'The Manifesto On How to be Interesting' Holly Bourne * 'I Am Not a Number' Lisa Heathfield * 'If I Stay' Gayle Forman * 'The Fault in Our Stars' John Green * C 'After the Fire' Will Hill * 'The Hate U Give' Angie Thomas 'Crongton Knights' Alex Wheatle 'A Very Large Expanse of Sea' Tahereh Mafi 'The Final Year' Matt Goodfellow 'Just Like Everyone Else' Sarah Hagger-Holt (BG)</p>	<p>Dystopian</p> <p>'Divergent' (series) Veronica Roth 'The Hunger Games' (series) Suzanne Collins * 'Slated' (series) Terri Terry 'The Red Queen' (series) Victoria Aveyard 'Breath' Sarah Crossan 'Legend' (series) Marie Lu 'The Supernaturalist' Eoin Colfer 'The Maze Runner' James Dashner 'How I Live Now' Meg Rosoff * 'Gone' (series) Michael Grant 'Disruption' (series) Jessica Shirvington 'Maggot Moon' Sally Gardner* 'The Blue Book of Nebo' Manon Steffan Ross 'Where the River Runs Gold' Sita Brahmachari (BG)</p>
<p>Horror</p> <p>'Buried Thunder' by Tim Bowler 'The Thief of Always' Clive Barker 'The Enemy' (series)* Charlie Higson</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p> <p>'The Diary of a Young Girl' Anne Frank 'Bob, No Ordinary Cat' James Bowen (adapted for early teen readers) (BG) 'A Dog Called Hope' Damien Lewis C* 'Feminists Don't Wear Pink' Scarlet Curtis * 'I Am Malala' Malala Yousafzai 'Lion' Saroo Brierley</p>
<p>Classics</p> <p>'Oliver Twist' Charles Dickens 'Anne of Green Gables' L M Montgomery 'The Little Prince' Antoine De Saint- Exupery 'Jane Eyre' Charlotte Bronte 'Pride and Prejudice' Jane Austen 'To Kill a Mockingbird' Harper Lee*</p>	<p>We would always suggest that students read the book <i>before</i> they watch any film version of a text. However, if they are going to tackle a classic novel, it's sometimes a good idea to watch the film first to support their reading of a more challenging text.</p>
<p><u>Other types of text</u></p> <p>Penguin have published some fantastic graphic novels of many of these very popular books, including some of the books on the classic list.</p> <p>Books for students with dyslexia Barrington Stoke publishes dyslexia friendly books for teenagers. These are widely available from libraries, bookshops and from the Barrington Stoke website. https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk</p>	

